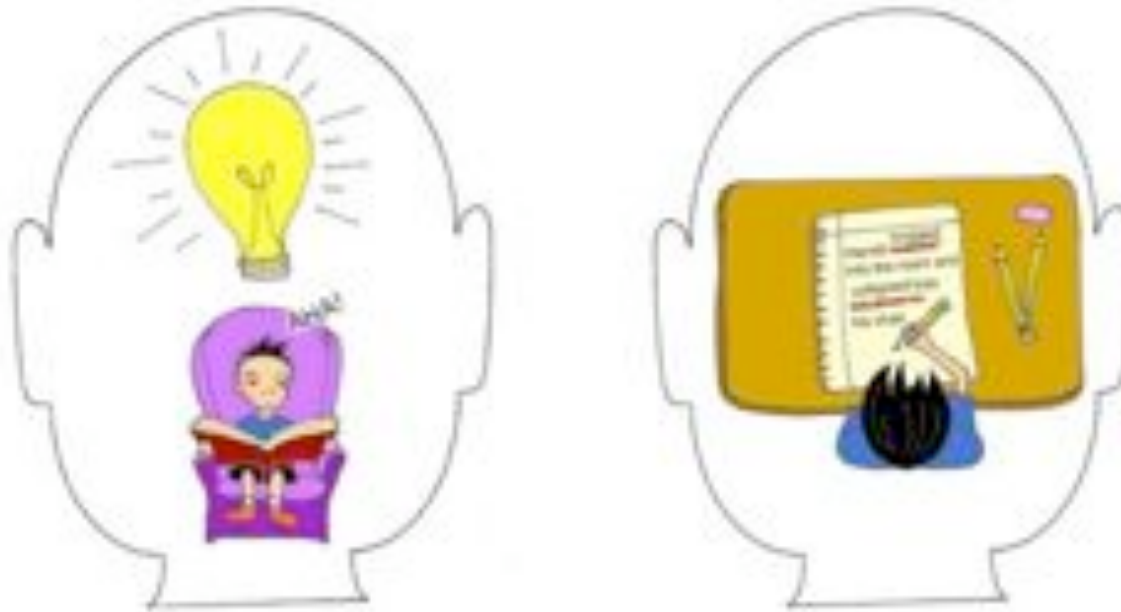


The Reading/Writing Connection:

A Cognitive Strategies Approach to Interpretive Reading and Writing



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Reading Receptive



Writing Productive

Reading and Writing
are essentially
similar processes
of meaning construction
involving the use of
cognitive strategies



What is a cognitive strategy?

Cognition = the process of
knowing or thinking

Strategy = a tool or tactic one
uses to solve a
problem

Cognitive Strategy = a thinking tool



- Declarative Knowledge
- Procedural Knowledge
- Conditional Knowledge





Cognitive Strategies Sentence Starters

Planning and Goal Setting

- My purpose is...
- My top priority is ...
- I will accomplish my goal by ...

Tapping Prior Knowledge

- I already know that...
- This reminds me of...
- This relates to...

Asking Questions

- I wonder why...
- What if...
- How come...

Predicting

- I'll bet that...
- I think...
- If _____, then...

Visualizing

- I can picture...
- In my mind I see...
- If this were a movie...

Making Connections

- This reminds me of...
- I experienced this once when...
- I can relate to this because...

Summarizing

- The basic gist is...
- The key information is...
- In a nutshell, this says that...

Adopting an Alignment

- The character I most identify with is...
- I really got into the story when...
- I can relate to this author because...

Forming Interpretations

- What this means to me is...
- I think this represents...
- The idea I'm getting is...

Monitoring

- I got lost here because...
- I need to reread the part where...
- I know I'm on the right track because ...

Clarifying

- To understand better, I need to know more about...
- Something that is still not clear is...
- I'm guessing that this means _____, but I need to...

Revising Meaning

- At first I thought _____, but now I.....
- My latest thought about this is...
- I'm getting a different picture here because...

Analyzing the Author's Craft

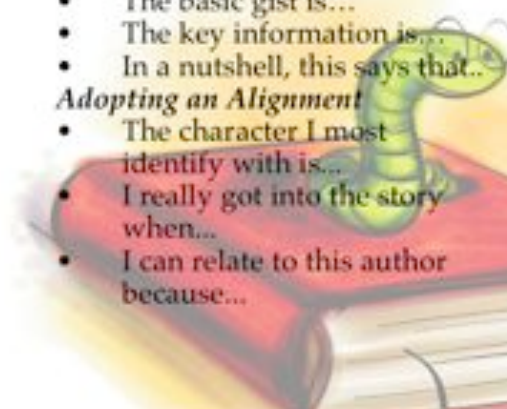
- A golden line for me is...
- This word/phrase stands out for me because...
- I like how the author uses to show...

Reflecting and Relating

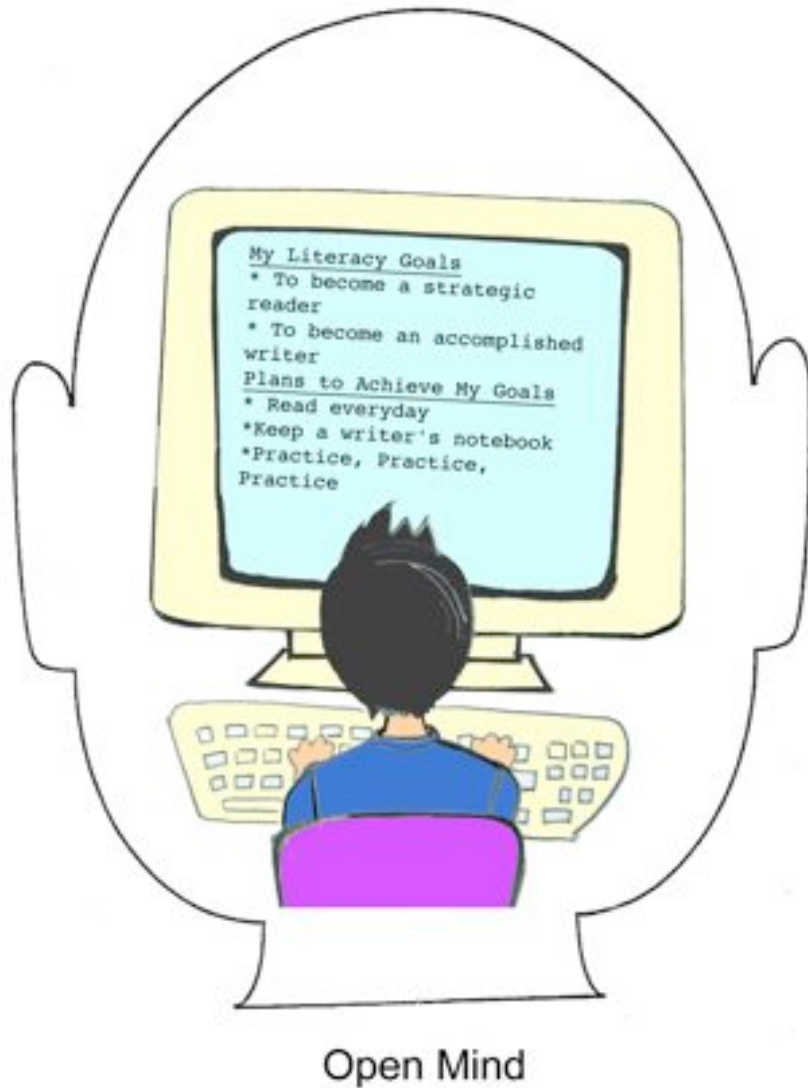
- So, the big idea is...
- A conclusion I'm drawing is...
- This is relevant to my life because...

Evaluating

- I like / don't like _____ because...
- My opinion is _____ because...
- The most important message is _____ because...



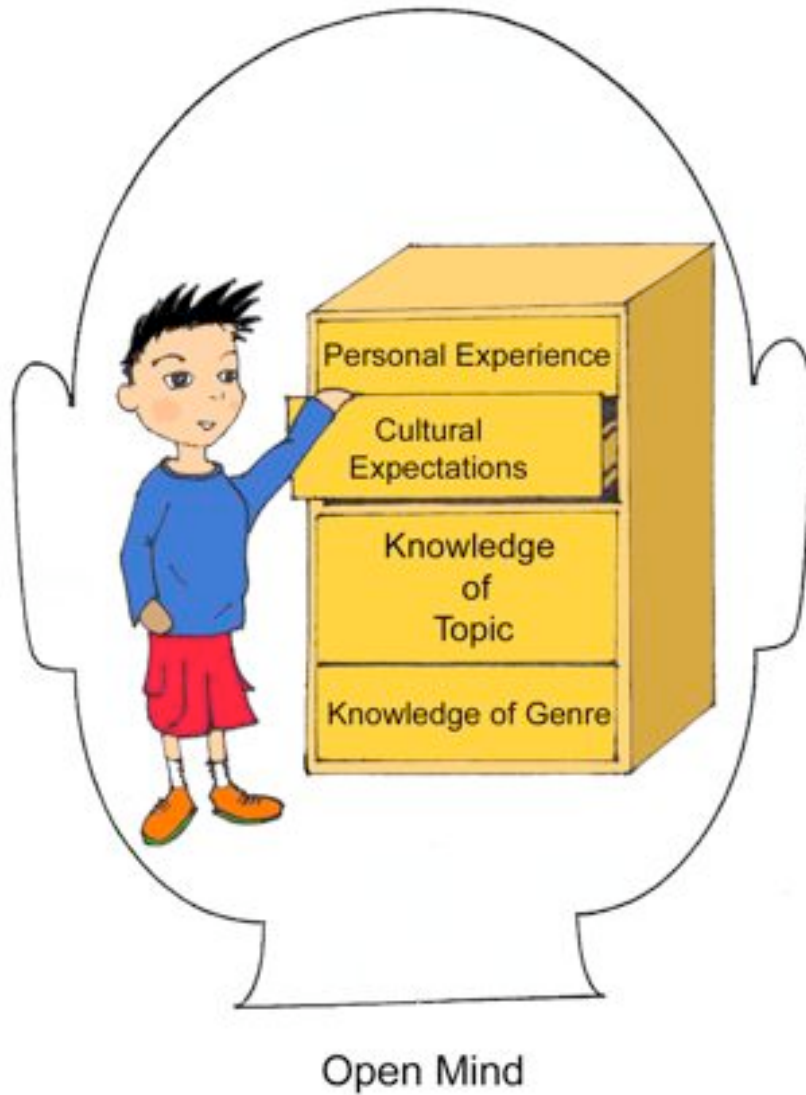
Planning and Goal Setting



Planning and Goal Setting

- My purpose is...
- My top priority is ...
- I will accomplish my goal by ...

Tapping Prior Knowledge



Tapping Prior Knowledge

- I already know that...
- This reminds me of...
- This relates to...

Easy as 1, 2, 3!

What Do You Know About This Story

(1)

This is what I think I know because of the

Title

(2)

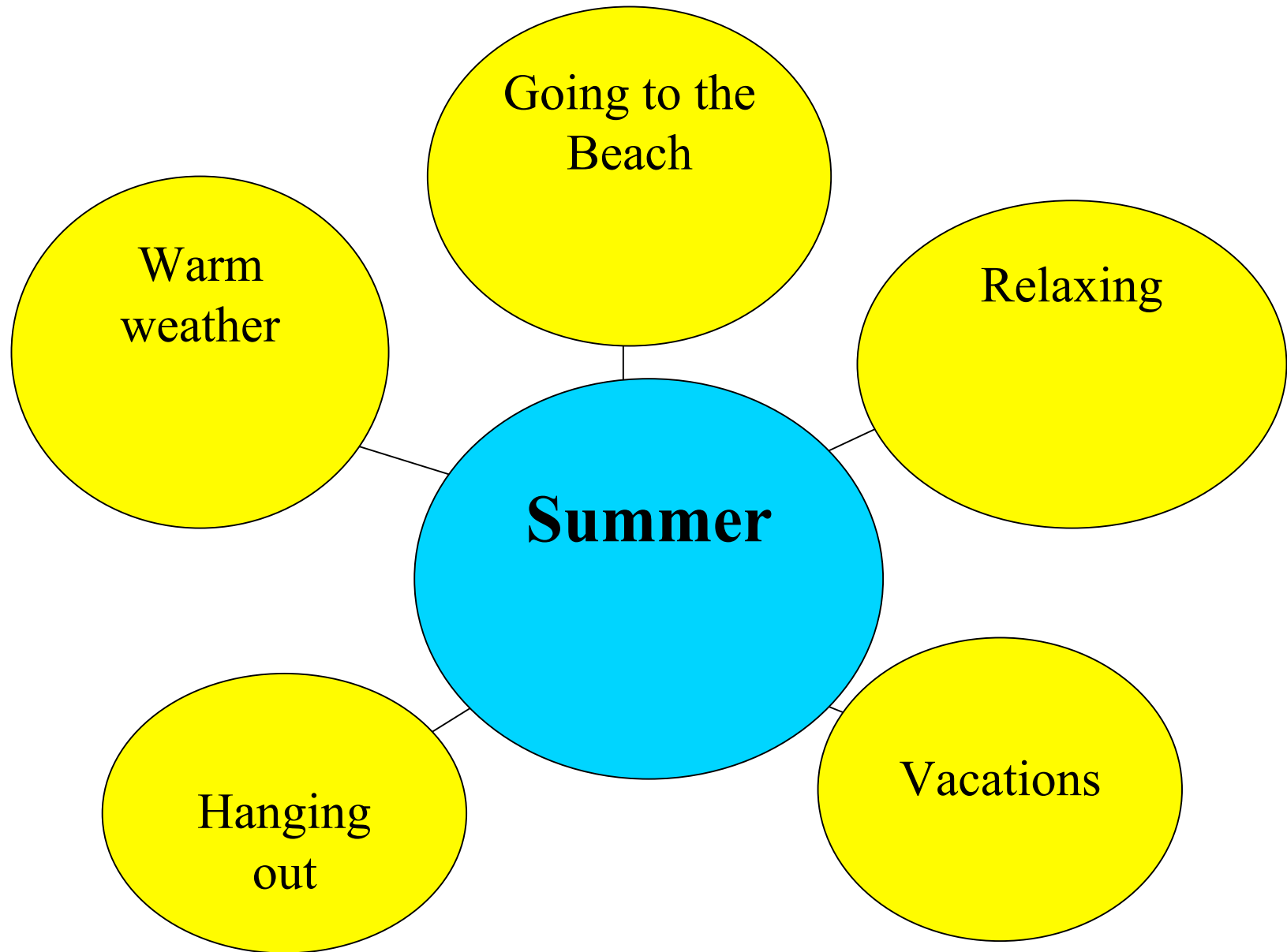
This is what I think I know because of the

Pictures

(3)

This is what I know because of the

Words



Making Predictions



Open Mind

Making Predictions

- I'll bet that...
- I think...
- If _____, then...

Visualizing



Open Mind

Visualizing

- I can picture...
- In my mind I see...
- If this were a movie...



Revising Meaning



Open Mind

Revising Meaning

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Open Mind

Asking Questions

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Forming Interpretations

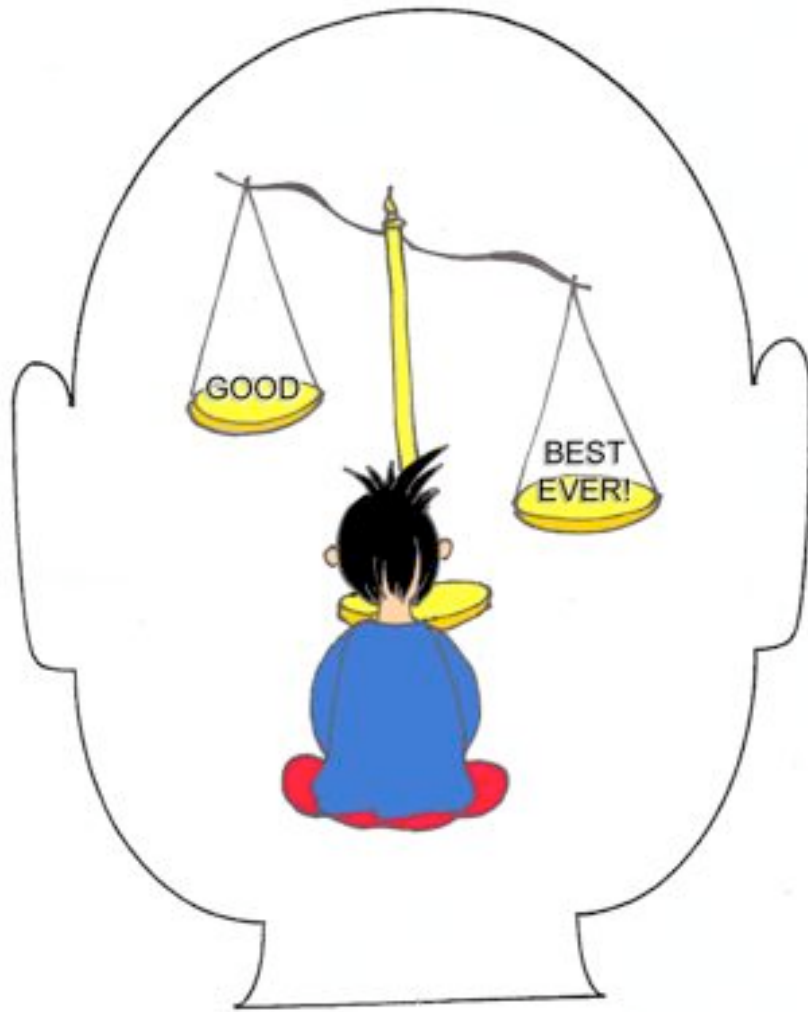


Open Mind

Forming Interpretations

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Adopting an Alignment

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Analyzing Author's Craft



Open Mind

Analyzing the Author's Craft

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- This word / phrase stands out for me because...
- I like how the author uses ___ to show...



Beat the Author



#1

The children stood
immobilized and silent until
the warmth and light of the sun
encircled them in an orange
glow.

“It’s real,” whispered one
girl.

“And Bright.”

“Look at it.”

“I can’t!” one boy shouted
as
he covered his eyes.

#2

The jubilant children rushed through the open door to greet the glorious, long-awaited sun.

“It’s warm,” exclaimed William. “It does look like a flower.”

“Margot was right,” another child chimed in.

At this remark, the effusion ceased as the children remembered Margot. And in the silence, the children heard a faint pounding.

#3

The children blinked at the reflection of the sun glistening on the wet vegetation. As they watched, flowers thrust their stems into the sun, bursting into bloom. Released from the weight of the rain, the trees stretched out their branches as if in reverent prayer.

And then the children remembered.

#4

It was the color of flaming bronze, and it was very large. And the sky around it was a blazing blue tile color. And the jungle burned with sunlight as the children, released from their spell, rushed out, yelling into the springtime.

“Now, don’t go too far,” called the teacher after them.

Monitoring

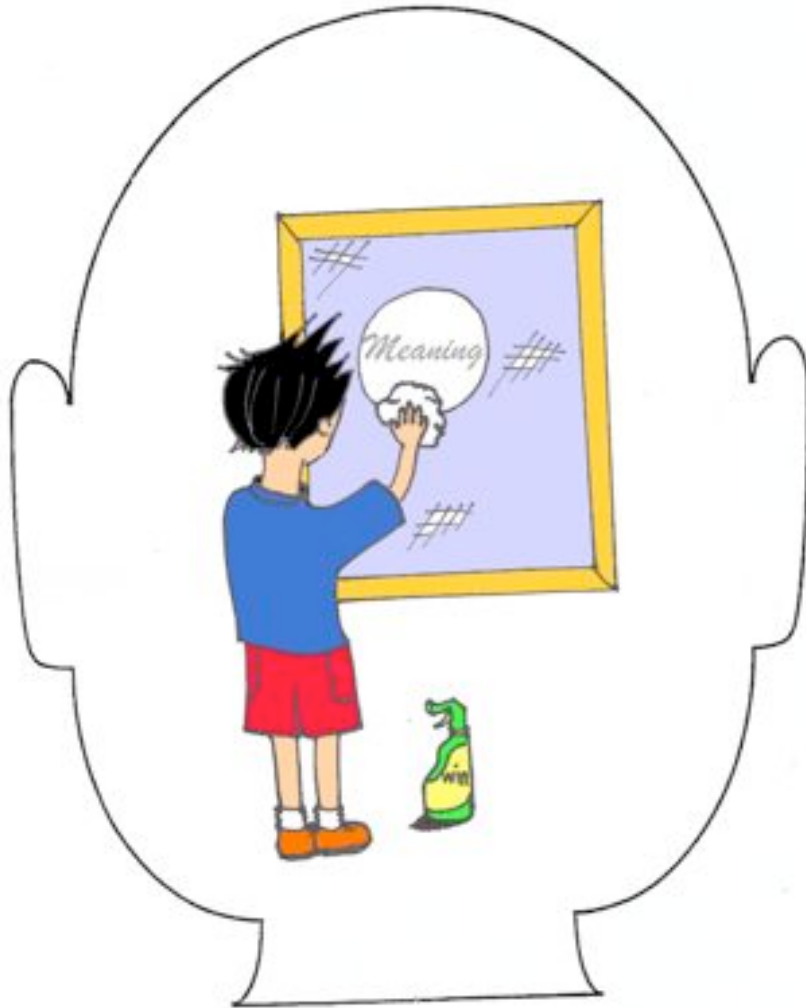


Open Mind

Monitoring

- I got lost here because...
- I need to reread the part where...
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Clarifying



Open Mind

Clarifying

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Reflecting and Relating



Open Mind

Reflecting and Relating

- So, the big idea is...
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Prompt

In Ray Bradbury's short story "All Summer in a Day," Margot's classmates deprive her of her long-awaited encounter with her much beloved sun, a sun she remembers so fondly from five years ago when she lived on Earth, by cruelly locking her in a closet. This is a devastating blow to Margot since, on Venus, the sun only comes out for one day of summer every seven years. Become Margot and project yourself five or ten years into the future. Write a letter to your class back on Venus exploring the treatment you received from them on the day the sun came out. Think about what Margot might say and how she might say it. Speak in her voice. Your letter should have a greeting, body and closing.

After your greeting, begin your letter by reminding your classmates of who you are. Describe your present situation, including information about where you live now and what you are doing. (Remember: This story is science fiction. It is up to you to decide Margot's present location and circumstances.)

Go on to explain why you're writing. Review what happened on that fateful day and discuss why you think the others treated you as they did when you lived among them.

Explore the children's final act of cruelty and its impact on you.

Conclude your letter by expressing what you learned from the experience.

The best papers will go well beyond plot summary to examine not only what the children did to Margot but why they did it and how it affected Margot. Use concrete details from the story as you refer to the events on that day and use rich, descriptive and figurative language that will paint a picture for the reader as well as make you sound like you are Margot. Your letter should follow the conventions of written English: spelling, punctuation, grammar (including using pronouns correctly), sentence structure, etc. Use your imagination: This is your opportunity to speak to those who treated you unfairly.

Sun-Shadow Mandala



Formulating a Writing Plan

Part 1

Who you are now and what you are doing.



Part 2

Explain why you think the children treated you as they did when you lived among them.



Part 3

Explore the children's final act of cruelty.



Part 4

Describe how the experience affected you then and what you learned from it.

A Letter from Margot

October 8, 2032

Dear Classmates,

Lately I have been recalling that horrible day that happened nearly seven years ago. Since I know that you are approaching that day when the sun comes out for one hour, I thought I would write you a letter. Just in case some of you do not remember me, I am Margot, and I was in your third grade class. Since then, I have moved back to Earth because when I lived on Venus, it was like I was constantly looking for the lighthouse in the storm. It was the only thing I had to look forward to. But here on Earth, the sun is like a giant lemon hanging from the tree we call a solar system. I am currently in high school where I am on the swim team and have a boyfriend. But mostly, I just like hanging out with friends. I felt like I needed some closure on my old life from Venus, and so I thought I would drop you a note. Although I was young, I vividly remember my time on Venus and the way you all made me feel. I knew I was different, and you knew I was different, but it was the way you treated me that made the gap between us seem like it was growing by the minute.

Through my nine-year old view, I remember that day when the scientists predicted that the sun would come out. I remember the closet door slamming in my face. I asked myself why you did such a thing to me. “Was it because I wouldn’t play tag, or take a shower after gym? Was it because I constantly dreamed of the sun I so fondly remembered?” Then it was total darkness. Total and complete darkness. The only noise I could hear was that of the rain slowly, yet steadily, letting up. And then came another noise, one that not only echoed in the closet, but in my ears also. It was a noise that made my anger nearly tangible. It was the shrieks of laughter of children. But just not any children. It was the voices of those who had locked me in the closet only a few moments prior.

All of a sudden, I realized I was helpless. Not only helpless, but lonely, the kind of lonely that makes you sick to your stomach. I prayed that one of you would come and save me from this torture, but after some time, I knew it. I had just pushed the thought to the back of my mind until finally, I admitted it. No one was going to come and save me. Not one of you was going to rescue me, then take me up to where the sky shined so bright it hurt your eyes to look at it. I knew I had not one friend. Not one of you understood how much I had anticipated this. How much I had longed to have the sun on my face once more. And that is when it happened; my nine-year old heart sank.

It sank so low I could have sworn I felt it in the bottom of my shoes. And as I sat there, I remembered you had never felt the sun on your face until this moment. You had never felt the same way I had about the sun. And you would never feel the same way again. I realized that when you got right down to it, the reason I was sitting all alone in a closet, and you were playing in the sun, was because I was different from the majority of you. And because of that difference, I had been tormented endlessly by others. A difference is like a gap. We all have gaps between us, but some of us have smaller gaps to fill, while other gaps seem to be as large as the Grand Canyon which, by the way, is a great big canyon here on Earth. Some are better at crossing these gaps. Still others seem to take the short cut and cross only the small gaps. When I lived on Venus the gaps between you and me were so great, I might as well have been back here on Earth. So I guess that is the reason my parents moved me back here. I didn't really have anyone I would be missing the way I missed Earth. So soon after that day, my parents moved me back to Earth. And I have never heard from any of you since. I hope your hour in the sun is a memorable one. And I do not want to "rain on your parade," but you see, here on Earth, the sun is like a fire in the middle of a storm. But I don't think you would understand what I am saying since on Venus you just have the storm.

Your friend,
Margot

“All Summer in a Day”

Response to Literature

In Ray Bradbury’s short story “All Summer in a Day,” the main character, Margot, suffers on a physical, social, and emotional level. She is treated cruelly because she knows about the sun and her classmates do not.

Write an expository essay in which you analyze why the children behaved the way they did toward Margot. Introduce and describe Margot. Analyze her relationship with the other children. Speculate as to why the children behaved so cruelly. In your conclusion, discuss the author’s message to the reader and evaluate whether that message is relevant today.

A successful essay will include the following:

- o an interesting title

Introduction:

- o a hook
- o TAG (title, author, genre)
- o discussion/synopsis of story and conflict
- o thesis statement

Body Paragraphs:

- o a topic sentence for each body paragraph
- o supporting details
- o quotes
- o commentary

Conclusion:

- o includes a restatement of the thesis
- o discussion of author’s message
- o evaluation of whether that message is relevant today

Remember to EDIT, EDIT, EDIT!